

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102743

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BOURNE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TBIO, PEPR, PDEV, IZ, US

SUBJECT: IRAQI REQUEST FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) BAGHDAD 264; (B) 77 STATE 198055

1. MINISTER OF HEALTH HUSSAIN HAS INVITED DR. ALLAN MCKELVIE, PRESIDENT, WORLD ORTHOPEDIC CONCERN (WOC) TO VISIT IRAQ FOR ONE WEEK, REVIEW ITS ORTHOPEDIC FACILITIES, AND DISCUSS CONSULTANT ASSISTANCE FOR AN ORTHOPEDIC TRAINING PROJECT IN COUNTRY. WOC HAS PROJECTS IN A NUMBER OF LDCS AND MCKELVIE HAS EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE MEDICINE.

2. DR. AND MRS. MCKELVIE WILL ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD WEDNES-
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DAY, APRIL 26, FROM LONDON.

3. WE, PECK AND THE WHITE HOUSE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH MCKELVIE USG POLICY OF ENCOURAGING MEDICAL COOPERATION TO COMPLEMENT OUR BASIC STRATEGY OF TRYING TO BROADEN AND NORMALIZE THE U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONSHIP. BOURNE ASKED MCKELVIE TO CONVEY TO THE HEALTH MINISTER HIS DESIRE

TO DISCUSS USG COOPERATION WITH THE GOI IN MEETING ITS MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS. WE BRIEFED MCKELVIE ON OUR EARLIER RESPONSE OFFERING THE GOI A U.S. MEDICAL TEAM TO REVIEW POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION. MCKELVIE WORKS WITH DR. HENRY PFEFFER, WHO DIAGNOSED SADDAM HUSSEIN, AND THEREFORE KNOWS SOMETHING OF THE IRAQI SCENE.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT SINCE THE GOI MADE CONTACT WITH MCKELVIE THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS, WE SHOULD KEEP A LOW PROFILE AT THIS TIME. DR. MCKELVIE EXPECTS TO CONTACT YOU DURING HIS VISIT, BUT YOU NEED NOT MEET AT THE AIR-PORT. CHRISTOPHER

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